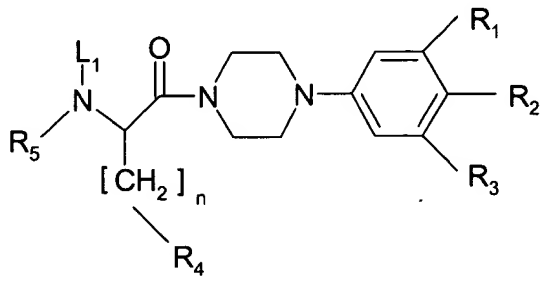
Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (1):



formula (1)

wherein:

L_1 is hydrogen or methyl;

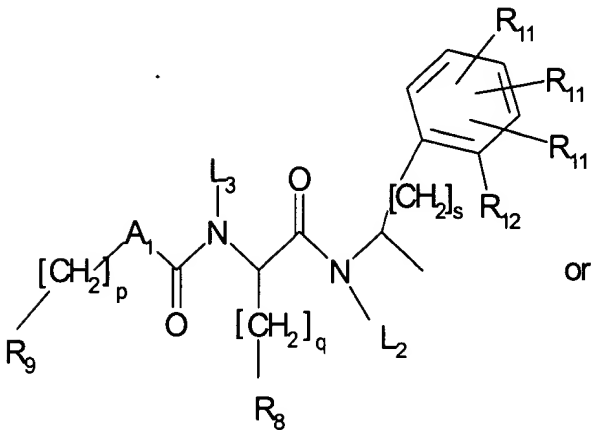
R_1 and R_2 and R_3 are each independently hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, carbamoyl, N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, NN-(diC_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl or C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl;

R_4 is indole, N-(C_{1-4} alkyl) indole, C_{5-7}carbocyclic ring or aryl, any of which can be optionally substituted on ring carbon atoms with up to three substituents each independently selected from halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, or C_{1-4}alkoxy;

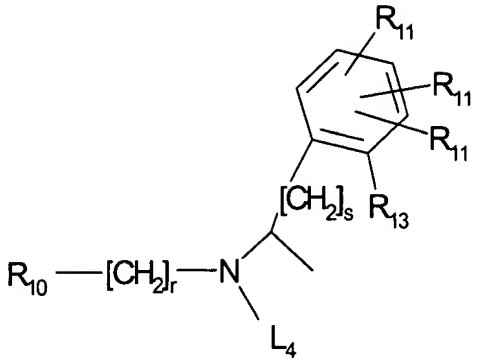
R_5 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, R_6CH_2- or $R_6C(O)$-;

R_6 is aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, NN-(diC_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, or R_7; wherein the aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl rings may be optionally substituted with up to three substituents independently selected from nitro, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, halo, (C_{1-4}alkyl)sulfanyl, ~~C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl,~~ N-(C_{1-4} alkyl)carbamoyl, NN-(diC_{1-4} alkyl)carbamoyl, N-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino or NN-(diC_{1-4} alkyl)amino;

wherein R_7 is either a group of formula (2) or of formula (3):



Formula (2)



Formula (3)

wherein:

L_2, L_3 and L_4 are each independently hydrogen or methyl;

R_8 is amino, guanadino or imidazolo, any of which can be mono or di-N-substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl;

A_1 is oxygen or a direct bond;

R_9 is a C_{5-8} membered mono-carbocyclic ring, a C_{6-10} membered bi-carbocyclic ring, C_{8-12} membered tri-carbocyclic ring, C_{5-7}alkyl or aryl, any of which can be optionally mono, bi or tri substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_{10} is C_{1-6}alkyl or a C_{3-8}mono-carbocyclic ring;

R_{11} is hydrogen, halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, or C_{1-4}alkoxy;

R_{12} is hydrogen or methyl or ethyl or R_{12} together with L_2 forms a C_{5-7} nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring;

R_{13} is hydrogen or methyl or ethyl or R_{13} together with L_4 forms a C_{5-7} nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

p is 0, 1 or 2;

q is an integer from 1 to 6;

r is 0, 1 or 2;

s is 0, 1 or 2;

provided that when R_6 is aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{3-6}alkyl or NN-(diC_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{3-6}alkyl then R_5 is other than R_6CH_2-; and when R_1 to R_3 are each hydrogen, L_1 is hydrogen, n is1, R_4 is phenyl, R_5 is $R_6C(O)$-, then R_6 cannot be 2-methyl-4-amino-butyl,

and excluding (S)-4-chloro-N-[1-(1H-indol-3-ylmethyl)-2-oxo-2-(4-phenyl-1-piperazinyl)ethyl]-N-methyl-benzamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

2. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_5 is hydrogen.

3 (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 wherein R_1 is hydrogen; R_2 is nitro; R_3 is hydrogen; n is 1; R_4 is indole, N-(C_{1-4} alkyl)indole, cyclohexyl or phenyl any of which can be optionally substituted on ring carbon atoms with up to three substituents each independently selected from halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, or C_{1-4}alkoxy, L_1 is hydrogen and R_5 is hydrogen.

4. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_5 is $R_6C(O)$—; R_6 is aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, or NN-(diC_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, wherein the aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl rings can be optionally substituted on ring carbon atoms with up to three substituents each independently selected from nitro, halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, or C_{1-4}alkoxy.

5. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 4 wherein R_1 is hydrogen; R_2 is nitro; R_3 is hydrogen; n is 1; L_1 is hydrogen; and R_6 is aryl or heteroaryl wherein the aryl or heteroaryl can be optionally substituted on ring carbon atoms with up to three substituents each independently selected from nitro, halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, or C_{1-4}alkoxy.

6. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_6 is R_7.

7. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 6 wherein R_7 is of Formula (2).

8. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 7 wherein R_1 is hydrogen; R_2 is nitro; R_3 is hydrogen; n is 1; L_1 is hydrogen; L_2 is hydrogen or methyl; q is an integer between 2 and 4; R_8 is amino; s is 1 and L_3 is hydrogen or methyl.

9. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 6 wherein R_7 is of Formula (3).

10. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 9 wherein R_1 is hydrogen; R_2 is nitro; R_3 is hydrogen; n is 1; s is 1 and L_1 is hydrogen.

11. (previously presented) A compound selected from the following:

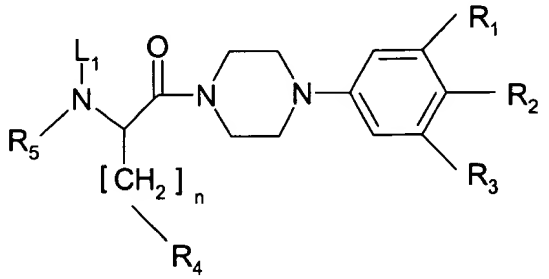
4,5-dimethoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl-Phe(4-Cl)-piperazine-4-nitrophenyl;
4,5-dimethoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl-NMe-Trp-piperazine-4-nitrophenyl;
4,5-dimethoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl-(D)(N^{in}-Me)Trp-piperazine-4-nitrophenyl;
Z-(D)(NMe)Dab-(NMe)(D)Phe-(D)Trp-piperazine-4-nitrophenyl;
Z-NMe(D)Lys-NMe(D)Phe-(D)Phe(4-Cl)-piperazine-4-nitrophenyl;
cyclohexyl-CO-(D)Lys-(D)NMe-Phe-Cha-piperazine-4-nitrophenyl;
cyclohexyl-(D)Lys-(D)(NMe)Phe-(D)Phe(4-Cl)-piperazine-4-nitrophenyl;
cyclohexyl-CH_2-(D,L)NMe-Phe{CH_2NH}(D)Trp-piperazine-4-nitrophenyl; and
cyclohexyl-(D)Lys-(D)(NMe)Phe-(D)hPhe-piperazine-4-nitrophenyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

12. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound according to claims 1 ~~to 11~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A method of treating cancer, comprising administering to a warm-blooded animal an effective amount ~~The use~~ of a compound of formula (4): ~~in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer in a warm-blooded animal.~~



formula (4)

wherein :

L_1 is hydrogen or methyl;

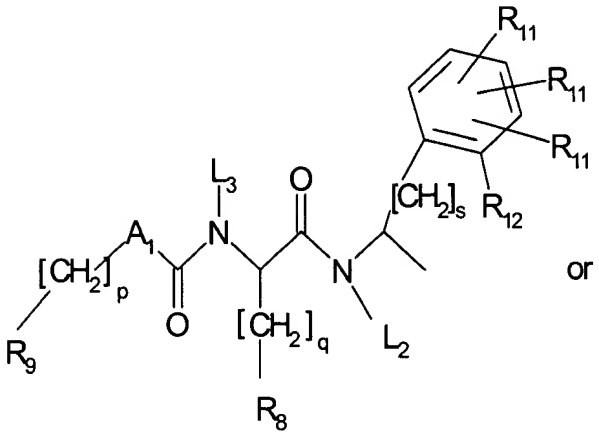
R_1 and R_2 and R_3 are each independently hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, carbamoyl, N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, NN-(diC_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl or C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl;

R_4 is indole, N-(C_{1-4} alkyl) indole, C_{5-7}carbocyclic ring or aryl, any of which can be optionally substituted on ring carbon atoms with up to three substituents each independently selected from halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, or C_{1-4}alkoxy;

R_5 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, R_6CH_2- or $R_6C(O)$-;

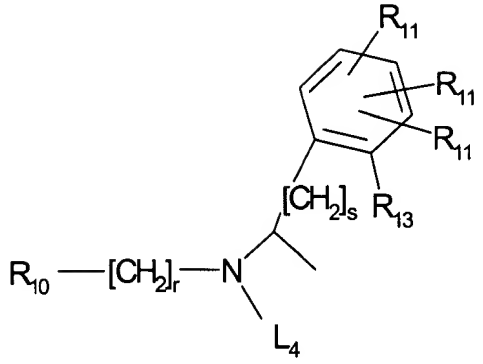
R_6 is aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, NN-(diC_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, or R_7; wherein the aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl rings may be optionally substituted with up to three substituents independently selected from nitro, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, halo, (C_{1-4}alkyl)sulfanyl, ~~C_{1-4}-alkoxycarbonyl,~~ N-(C_{1-4} alkyl)carbamoyl, NN-(diC_{1-4} alkyl)carbamoyl, N-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino or NN-(diC_{1-4} alkyl)amino;

wherein R_7 is either a group of formula (5) or of formula (6):



Formula (5)

or



Formula (6)

wherein:

L_2, L_3 and L_4 are each independently hydrogen or methyl;

R_8 is amino, guanadino, or imidazolo, any of which can be mono or di-N-substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl;

A_1 is oxygen or a direct bond;

R_9 is a C_{5-8} membered mono-carbocyclic ring, a C_{6-10} membered bi-carbocyclic ring, C_{8-12} membered tri-carbocyclic ring, C_{5-7}alkyl or aryl, any of which can be optionally mono, bi or tri substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_{10} is C_{1-6}alkyl or a C_{3-8}mono-carbocyclic ring;

R_{11} is hydrogen, halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, or C_{1-4}alkoxy;

R_{12} is hydrogen or methyl or ethyl or R_{12} together with L_2 forms a C_{5-7} nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring;

R_{13} is hydrogen or methyl or ethyl or R_{13} together with L_4 forms a C_{5-7} nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

p is 0, 1 or 2;

q is an integer from 1 to 6;

r is 0, 1 or 2;

s is 0, 1 or 2;

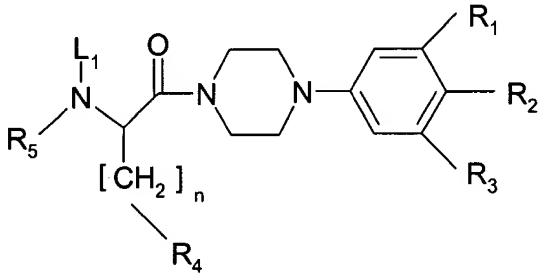
provided that when R_6 is aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{3-6}alkyl or NN-(diC_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{3-6}alkyl then R_5 is other than R_6CH_2; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (new) A compound of formula (1a):



formula (1a)

wherein :

L_1 is hydrogen or methyl;

R_1 and R_2 and R_3 are each independently hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, carbamoyl, N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, NN-(diC_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl or C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl;

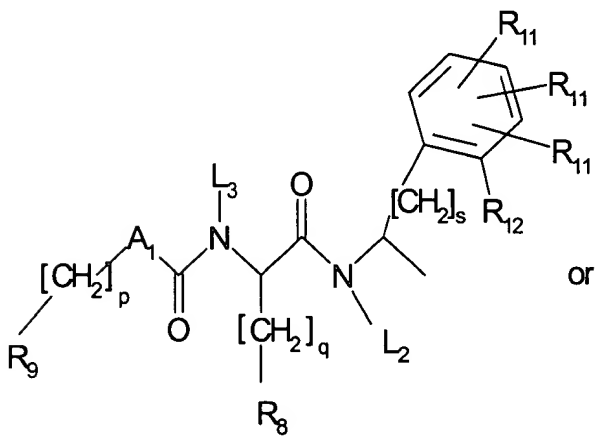
R_4 is indole, N-(C_{1-4} alkyl) indole, C_{5-7}carbocyclic ring or aryl, any of which can be optionally substituted on ring carbon atoms with up to three substituents each independently selected from halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, or C_{1-4}alkoxy;

R_5 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, R_6CH_2- or $R_6C(O)$-;

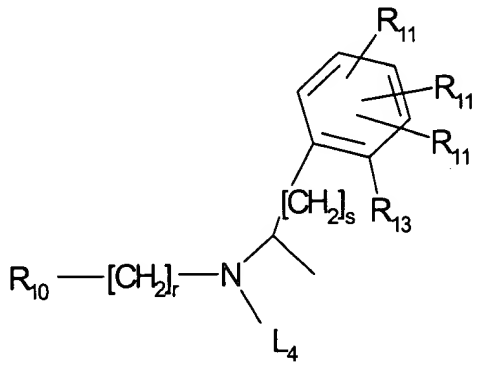
R_6 is aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, NN-(diC_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, or R_7; wherein the aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl rings may be optionally substituted with up to three

substituents independently selected from nitro, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, (C_{1-4}alkyl)sulfanyl, N-(C_{1-4} alkyl)carbamoyl, NN-(diC_{1-4} alkyl)carbamoyl, N-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino or NN-(diC_{1-4} alkyl)amino;

wherein R_7 is either a group of formula (2) or of formula (3):



or



Formula (2) Formula (3)

wherein:

L_2, L_3 and L_4 are each independently hydrogen or methyl;

R_8 is amino, guanadino or imidazolo, any of which can be mono or di-N-substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl;

A_1 is oxygen or a direct bond;

R_9 is a C_{5-8} membered mono-carbocyclic ring, a C_{6-10} membered bi-carbocyclic ring, C_{8-12} membered tri-carbocyclic ring, C_{5-7}alkyl or aryl, any of which can be optionally mono, bi or tri substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_{10} is C_{1-6}alkyl or a C_{3-8}mono-carbocyclic ring;

R_{11} is hydrogen, halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, or C_{1-4}alkoxy;

R_{12} is hydrogen or methyl or ethyl or R_{12} together with L_2 forms a C_{5-7} nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring;

R_{13} is hydrogen or methyl or ethyl or R_{13} together with L_4 forms a C_{5-7} nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

p is 0, 1 or 2;

q is an integer from 1 to 6;

r is 0, 1 or 2;

s is 0, 1 or 2;

provided that when R_6 is aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, aminoC_{3-6}alkyl, N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{3-6}alkyl or NN-(diC_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{3-6}alkyl then R_5 is other than R_6CH_2-; and when R_1 to R_3 are each hydrogen, L_1 is hydrogen, n is1, R_4 is phenyl, R_5 is $R_6C(O)$-, then R_6 cannot be 2-methyl-4-amino-butyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

19. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 1, or a compound of Claim 18, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.